

REMARKS

Prior to this Reply, Claims 1-34 were pending. Through this Reply, Claims 1, 8, 21, 27, 30 and 33 have been amended; Claims 7 and 26 have been cancelled; and, Claims 35-39 have been added. Accordingly, Claims 1-6, 8-25 and 27-39 are now at issue in the present case.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes, with thanks, the Examiner's allowance of Claim 34.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to Claims 7-9, 19, 26-28 and 33 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner indicated that the objected-to claims would be allowable if they were rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include the limitations of objected-to Claim 7. Therefore, Applicant has cancelled Claim 7 and amended Claim 8, so that Claim 8 depends from Claim 1 instead of cancelled Claim 7. Claims 2-6 and 8-20 depend from Claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

Applicant has also added new Claim 35, which includes the limitations of original Claims 1 and 18, along with the limitations of objected-to Claim 19.

In addition, Applicant has amended Claim 21 to include the limitations of objected-to Claim 26. Therefore, Applicant has cancelled Claim 26 and amended Claim 27, so that Claim 27 depends from Claim 21 instead of cancelled Claim 26. Claims 22-25 and 27-33 depend from Claim 21 and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 21.

Applicant has also added new Claim 36, which includes the limitations of original Claims 1 and 32, along with the limitations of objected-to Claim 33.

II. New Claims 37-39

Applicant has added new Claims 37-39, which depend from allowed Claim 34.

Applicant believes that such claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 34.

III. Amendments to Specification and Claims 30 and 33

Applicant has amended two paragraphs in the specification for clarity. No new matter has been added.

Applicant has amended Claims 30 and 33 to correct obvious errors. Importantly, Claims 30 and 33 were not amended to distinguish any prior art.

IV. Additional Claim Fees

In determining whether additional claim fees are due, reference is made to the Fee Calculation Table (below).

Fee Calculation Table

	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest Number Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Rate	Additional Fee
Total (37 CFR 1.16(c))	37	Minus	34	= 3	x \$50 =	\$ 150.00
Independent (37 CFR 1.16(b))	5	Minus	3	= 2	x \$200 =	\$ 400.00

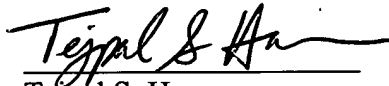
As set forth in the Fee Calculation Table (above), Applicant previously paid claim fees for thirty-four (34) total claims and for three (3) independent claims. Therefore, Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge the credit card identified on the enclosed Form PTO-2038 in the amount of \$550.00 for the presentation of three (3) total claims over thirty-four (34) and for the presentation of two (2) independent claims over three (3). Although Applicant believes that no other fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2198 for any fee deficiencies associated with filing this paper.

V. Conclusion

Applicant believes that the application appears to be in form for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number regarding any matters relating to the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: JUNE 18, 2005